

- If a request is made to apprehend child/ren if certain conditions are present, such as, an offender in the home or substance abuse by parents, the request will provide AHU with specific grounds for the apprehension and if the family is aware that an apprehension would occur if the conditions were present.
- If it is unclear whether the family has been cautioned regarding these conditions, the AHU will establish the safety of the children, based upon the information presented and the situation to be assessed. (NOTE: This may or may not result in an apprehension.)
- The request for service may also provide helpful information about any placements that have already been arranged or any potential family members who would be suitable emergency placements.

Hospital Apprehensions

The following should be included in a Service Requests for hospital apprehensions.

NOTE: Hospitals do not supervise visits. CFS needs to make arrangements.

Upon receipt, the AHU keeps all Birth Alerts on file until such time that the parent has given birth.

After receiving the call from the hospital that mom has given birth, AHU Social Workers wait a reasonable amount of time to allow the mother to recover before attending (usually 4-6 hours). In the interim, the hospital will be advised an apprehension order exists and that the parents should not be leaving the hospital with the newborn. While the hospital cannot stop mothers from leaving the hospital, should the mother attempt to leave, the hospital will contact the AHU.

If birth should take place late at night or in the early hours of morning on a weekday, the hospital will be advised about the apprehension order and the apprehension will be left for the family's Social Worker (in order to allow a reasonable amount of time for recovery before attending).

Spot Checks

- The AHU receives requests to check on the well-being of children and families. Often these requests concern substance misuse, neglect and access to abuse offenders.
- Dependent on work load, the AHU will attempt the spot check one time during the time period in which it was requested.
 - The AHU continues to return to the home if on the first visit no one is home, or if unable to fully assess on the first visit.
 - The AHU pays subsequent visits if the concerns are substantial.
 - The AHU continues to return to the home if the assessment is that the situations raises some concerns but does not warrant the removal of the children.

Transportation

The AHU's purpose is to respond to emergency child and family service matters and therefore, the first priority for service will always be to ensure the safety of children. As such, requests to